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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08740 051825Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-14 NRC-07 CEQ-01
/160 W
----------028552 060601Z /10
R 051806Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6414
INFO DOE WASHDC
DOE GERMANTOWN
ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08740

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EC
SUBJ: RESEARCH REACTOR LOW ENRICHMENT FUEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 88681; (B) STATE 105672
1. MISSION SENT DOE ANNOUNCEMENT (REF A) ON SUBJECT PROGRAM TO EC DIRECTOR-GENERAL SCHUSTER (RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION). HE HAS RESPONDED BY LETTER AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7, 1978; I HAVE TAKEN NOTE WITH INTEREST OF THE NEW ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL.
THE PROBLEM OF USING LOWER ENRICHED URANIUM FOR SUCH FUELS HAS ALSO RETAINED THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION AND A CONTRIBUTION OF THE CEC ON THIS TOPIC TO THE INFCE WORKING
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GROUP 8 IS FORESEEN (REF. DOCUMENT INFCE/WG 8/6 OF FEBRUARY 9, 1978). THIS STUDY, WHICH IS CARRIED OUT BY THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DUTCH AND ITALIAN NATIONAL EXPERTS, COVERS THE CASE OF BOTH THE ESSOR AND HFR REACTORS.
I WELCOME ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND I SUGGEST

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THAT IN ANY CASE REPRESENTATIVES OF DOE AND OF THE COMMISSION REMAIN IN CONTACT WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE INFCE WORKING GROUP 8. END QUOTE.

2. THE STUDY REFERRED TO BY DR. SCHUSTER IS A PARAMETRIC STUDY OF THE NEUTRONICS AND HEAT TRANSFER CHARACTERISTICS OF USING VARIOUS LEVELS OF ENRICHMENT FOR THE FUEL IN THE ESSOR AND HFR REACTORS. THE STUDY WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE EFFECTS OF USING LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM OXIDE FUEL (THE FRENCH CARAMEL (?) FUEL) THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE SAME DENSITY OF FISSILE ATOMS AS WOULD USE OF HIGH ENRICHED ALLOY FUEL. THE STUDY HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN INITIATED SO THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS AVAILABLE YET.

3. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE COMMISSION (MR. GABOLDE, JRC) OF THE PENDING VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF HOYLE, ET AL (REF B) AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRIEF MEETING WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS ON MAY 19. PURPOSE OF SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE EC STUDY AND THE DOE PROGRAM AND TO EXPLORE WHETHER THE EC MIGHT BE ABLE TO COOPERATE MORE DIRECTLY IN THE DOE PROGRAM. MR. GABOLDE, BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF KEY OFFICIALS, WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER SUCH A MEETING WAS FEASIBLE BUT WILL LET US KNOW IN A FEW DAYS. SIMILARLY, ON OUR PART, WE COULD NOT CONFIRM WHETHER THE U.S. PARTY WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE COMMISSION ON THAT DATE. PLEASE ADVISE IF SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE DESIRED AND/OR FEASIBLE. (WE ASSUME, AS DOES EMBASSY BRUSSELS, THAT BELGONUCLEAIRE

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MEETINGS WILL NOT USE UP ALL OF THE 19TH.) HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaacyzl.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, US, EEC
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